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BILL NO.: Senate Bill 838

TITLE: Transportation – Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Service – County Funding

SPONSOR: Senator Young

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: April 4, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 838 – Transportation – Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Service – County Funding. This bill would establish minimum funding requirements for local elderly and handicapped transportation services by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

Since taking office, Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski has made tremendous strides to improve local transit by expanding the availability and accessibility of transportation services. Among its numerous critical responsibilities, the County's Department of Public Works and Transportation oversees the operation and expansion of CountyRide, a free transportation system connecting seniors and disabled persons to resources across the County. Offering these services to all communities in need is a core mission of the Olszewski Administration, and rapid expansion is key to its success.

Achieving the County's goal of bringing affordable and accessible transportation to all residents in need will require considerable funding. To expand routes, hire and train new drivers, and procure vehicles that are accessible to the elderly and disabled, external investments are critical for getting the work done in a reasonable time frame. With one of the largest aging populations in the State, Baltimore County is uniquely positioned to utilize this funding to its fullest potential. By establishing minimum funding for local elderly and handicapped transit, Senate Bill 838 will set a baseline for vital State investments in residents who need them the most.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 838. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.